



Administrative Offices

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St. Elizabeth House

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Supportive Housing Services

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Shepherd Home

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**To:** Appropriations Committee  
**From:** Sister Patricia McKeon  
**Re:** Impact of 25% Reduction  
**Date:** December 9, 2009

Before voting on the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan please look at how that will impact people's lives. I understand cuts must be made and would expect to have to absorb some of that pain. In planning our budget for FY10, we planned a 2% reduction of government grant income. Our planning was on target for DMHAS and we have already been given a 2% reduction to our DMHAS programs.

Cuts in DSS as projected in the mitigation plan – **DSS - Reduce Non-Entitlement Grant Accounts by 25% to Housing / Homeless Services—would decimate our programs.** After years of no increase in DSS funding and continued service to homeless persons helping them to change their lives and move out of homelessness, **a 2% cut would be difficult but reasonable.**

Since these are residential programs that have fixed costs, the only area that can be cut is that of personnel. Our programs already operate with skeletal staffing. There is no room to cut further and to maintain 24/7 programs. **Cutting residential staff jeopardizes the safety of the residents and cutting case management staff negates the goals of the program and relegates these proactive services to the role of shelters.** That is clearly a no-win situation for everyone.

In 2008-2009 these programs moved 244 clients out of long term homelessness into permanent housing. Clearly this saves the State more than the 25% cut in the long-term.

To show you how the 25% cuts impact our programs, please see the attached spreadsheet.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Pat".

Sister Patricia McKeon  
Executive Director

## Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation

### Impact 25% DSS Funding Cut

Program	St. Elizabeth House	Mercy House	Supportive Housing Svcs	Friendship Ctr	Shepherd Home	MHSC TOTAL
Total Program Budget	754,606	289,205	597,680	267,526	685,613	2,594,630
Current Budget Shortfall (funds to be raised)	117,543	0	15,925	127,278	36,081	296,827
% of Total Budget to be Raised	16%	0%	3%	48%	5%	11%
25% DSS Cut	88,623	55,176	83,658	9,722	62,761	299,938
% of Total Budget to be Cut	12%	19%	14%	4%	9%	12%
New Budget Shortfall	206,166	55,176	99,583	137,000	98,842	596,765
% of Total Budget to be Raised	27%	19%	17%	51%	14%	23%

For each of the programs above subject to cuts in Housing/Homelessness Funds from DSS (with the exception of Mercy House), there is already a shortfall in the budget which has to be made up through fundraising by Mercy. The additional 25% cut would add to that number so that in St. Elizabeth House, for example, where we already need to raise \$117,543, the additional cut would increase that number to \$206,166. That creates an untenable situation since the aggregate funds to be raised by Mercy Housing and Shelter for FY2010 will total over \$1,000,000 in a recessionary economy.